to the author's objections to Von Siebold's views, we may say that he does not seem to have comprehended their full significance, and that we cannot think that the arguments used by him at all invalidate the hypothesis of the parthenogenetic origin of drone-eggs.

Mr. Munn's book, which we recommend to the notice of all bee-masters and general entomologists, is illustrated with a considerable number of plates, some of which show the form and structure of different kinds of hives and other apiarian apparatus, whilst the rest exhibit figures of bees and their cells and combs in various conditions. The latter are coloured, and are drawn by the author himself; their execution is rough, but they are generally very characteristic.

British Insects: a Familiar Description of the Form, Structure, Habits, and Transformations of Insects. By E. F. Staveley. 8vo. London: Reeve, 1871.

Miss Staveley has followed up her excellent little book on the British Spiders with an equally good work on the insects of our islands, although, as might be expected from the difference in the extent of the two subjects, the treatment here necessarily adopted causes a fundamental difference between the two books. Miss Staveley's 'British Spiders' was in fact an abridgment of Mr. Blackwall's great work on the same class of animals, containing characters of all the species and figures illustrating all the genera; so that it would enable the serious study of the Araneida to be carried on to a considerable extent, and might be used as a pocket summary of Blackwall's monograph; whilst in the 'British Insects' the author has aimed only at guiding the beginner's first steps in the study of entomology. The number of species referred to is necessarily small in comparison with the enormous insect-population of Britain; and the figures given only illustrate the great groups or families.

But Miss Staveley has carried out the one plan as well as she did the other, and has produced an admirable manual for the tyro in entomology. Her classification, indeed, is somewhat antiquated, being founded chiefly upon the 'Introduction to the Modern Classification of Insects' of Prof. Westwood; so that we here once more meet with the orders Euplexoptera, Thysanoptera, Trichoptera, Aphaniptera, Homoptera, and Heteroptera, which most entomologists have long since given up. The Strepsiptera are mentioned as puzzling insects, but placed with the Coleoptera. Perhaps the undue multiplication of orders has advantages for the beginner in some cases, by enabling the definitions of these groups to be drawn up with less liability to exceptions; and probably this feeling may have weighed with the author in adopting Westwood's classification; but we think that, in the case of the Homoptera and Heteroptera, at any rate, greater perspicuity would have been attained by uniting them in a single order characterized by the structure of the mouth.

The information given as to the structure and natural history of

insects in general and of the different groups and species referred to appears to be very correct; even the names of the groups and insects are generally rightly spelt—a rare occurrence indeed in popular books. The treatment adopted is as follows. After a short introduction, the author indicates the distinguishing characteristics of the class of Insects, and then describes in some detail the structure of the different parts of which these creatures are composed, and the nature of their metamorphoses, indicating, in connexion with the wings, the classification followed in the more special part of the book. This information is then summarized in a table of orders, with illustrative examples. Each order is then treated somewhat in the same fashion, characterized and divided into families or tribes, with descriptions of the appearance and habits of some of the commonest species belonging to it; and each of the larger orders has likewise its tabular synopsis, furnishing a summary of its contents. The systematic arrangement is doubtless open to criticism, and especially, as already stated, to the charge of being rather antiquated; but the learner who has acquired all the information which Miss Staveley affords will easily understand and appreciate the different views of other writers whose works may fall into his hands.

One of the great attractions of this book to the young entomologist will be the beautiful figures with which it is illustrated: these consist of sixteen excellent coloured plates by Mr. Robinson, and of a considerable number of woodcuts, both of details and of insects, scattered through the text. The whole of these figures are admirably executed; so that, both from a literary and an artistic point of view, we feel pleasure in recommending the book to our readers as an introduction to the study of entomology.

An Introductory Text-book of Zoology, for the Use of Junior Classes. By H. Alleyne Nicholson, M.D., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E., F.G.S. Sm. 8vo. Edinburgh and London: Blackwood, 1871.

We have already had occasion to speak in favourable terms of Dr. Nicholson's zoological manuals; and we have now to call attention to a third publication, of a more elementary nature than either of its predecessors, and intended, as the author tells us, "for the use of junior classes." This little work seems to us well adapted for its purpose, although perhaps the "junior classes" will be inclined to think that the quantity of technical terms which they are called upon to learn in order to understand its teachings is rather too great. Dr. Nicholson would indeed have done well to have adopted a more popular style in a junior class-book.

The arrangement adopted is the same as in the larger manuals, namely that of Prof. Huxley, followed almost without a variation. The classification is carried as far as the orders, and illustrative examples are cited and described under each group. The illustrations are for the most part, if not entirely, identical with those employed in the author's previous books, and are generally good.